IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace paragraph **[0020]** with the following amended paragraph:

[0020] The insulated insert portion 112 includes a top end ~~126~~ for receiving the effluent gas stream as it leaves the inlet manifold 104, and a bottom end 128 located proximate to the top end 122 of the lower portion 114. As noted, the top end ~~126~~ couples to the outlet 110 of the inlet manifold 104 and can be configured, for example, to engage a flange of the outlet 110 as shown in FIG. 1. Additional coupling between the inlet manifold 104 and the scrubber interface device 102 can be achieved, for example, with a plate 130 bolted to the scrubber interface device 102 as shown. The bottom end 128 of the insulated insert portion 112 is positioned proximate to the top end 122 of the cylindrical interior surface 116 as shown in FIG. 1. In some embodiments, an opening 132 is formed between the top end 122 of the cylindrical interior surface 116 and the bottom end 128 of the insulated insert portion 112 through which washing fluid 120 can flow. As shown in FIG. 1, the bottom end 128 of the insulated insert portion 112 can be narrowed to a lip to help obtain good flow characteristics where the washing fluid 120 is introduced through the opening 132.

Please replace paragraph **[0028]** with the following amended paragraph:

[0028] In those embodiments that include the plunger 140, the insulated insert portion 112 can be advantageously shaped to help guide the plunger head 148, as shown in FIG. 1. As can be seen, the top end ~~126~~ of the insulated insert portion 112 includes a taper that narrows to the minimum diameter of the insulated insert portion 112. Accordingly, since the plunger head 148 has a maximum diameter that is slightly less than the minimum diameter of the insulated insert portion 112, the taper helps guide the plunger head 148 into the insulated insert portion 112. In this respect, the plunger head 148 is self-aligning. The plunger head 148 can also include a spacer 155 to maintain a minimum clearance between any sharp edges and the surface of the insulated insert portion 112.